



ALIEN INVASION

It's hard to know who to trust in Scott Wolf's latest drama, writes
Debbie Shipp

SCOTT Wolf charmed audiences as teen heart-throb Bailey Salingor on the long-running teen drama *Party of Five*.

But in his latest role on sci-fi drama *V*, he's a man of layers and mystery.

As ambitious journalist Chad Decker, it's hard to pinpoint if he's smarmy and driven, or a newsman torn between ethics and ambition.

V is the remake of the 1980s cult miniseries of the same name in which aliens invade Earth.

They ostensibly come in peace, but have sinister motives. They're actually an army of carnivorous reptile-like creatures who like to munch on rats and want Earth's resources.

As Decker, Wolf scores access to their lead alien – the gorgeous Anna (Morena Baccarin).

It becomes an intriguing case of who is using who, and who can be trusted.

The meat in the role and the

ambiguity of his character drew Wolf to the project.

It didn't hurt, either, that he was a sci-fi nerd as a kid – one who devoured offerings like *Star Trek* and *Lost In Space* and can pull off a Vulcan salute with the best of them.

Unlike the original show, *V*'s aliens this time around are perfect replicas of humans, and they've been sneakily arriving on the planet for years infiltrating the population.

"They have immersed themselves throughout the world into our societies," Wolf says. "That underlying sense of 'who can you trust?' is really compelling. And really relevant."

"It's a fun way to tell a story, and it's really gripping and keeps you on the edge of your seat."

Wolf says he is torn by the role.

"Any time I get a chance to play a role that is not necessarily a bad guy, but is flawed – that's where you can mine some really fun stuff to play," he says.

Q&A

Jason Gann

Wilfred, Monday, 10pm, SBS1

First on-screen kiss?

In *Rats and Cats* I kissed three chicks, two in sex scenes. Yeah, I got real busy in that movie.

Dream on-screen kiss?

Sarah Silverman from *The Sarah Silverman Show*. Man, that chick is hot and funny. That's a rare combination. I can't manage both.

Career highlight?

Winning the Tropfest Best Actor award for the second time in a row in 2003.

Most embarrassing career moment?

My acceptance speech at Tropfest in 2003. I was off my face, ripped my shirt off, screamed out to my mum, and threatened to knock out Adam Spencer (the comedian) who was hosting the event. It's probably something I wouldn't do again. Except the Adam Spencer bit, of course.

As *V* unfolds, Chad is the guy in the middle.

"Some characters are incredibly inspired and excited by their arrival. Some are really fearful and scared," Wolf says.

"Chad winds up representing this grey area where, being a journalist, he's looking for the story. He wants to bite off a chunk of this thing and advance his own career."

"He is less concerned with whether they're nice or not."

"He is more concerned with how can he find a way to grab the spotlight."

Wolf says *V* will appeal to sci-fi lovers but also have broad appeal.

"Part of the fun of it is that whatever your ideology is you can kind of get into what we're talking about," he says.

"This is the first time I've worked on a genre show and what I grabbed on to right away reading the script was that it had great compelling characters, great stories."

V, Sunday, 8.30pm, Nine

On the cover
Scott Wolf and Morena Baccarin

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